



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

“Victoria Township Road Improvement Project”

The Federal Highway Administration Central Federal Lands Highway Division (FHWA-CFLHD), in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Victoria Township, is proposing to improve 1.75 miles of Victoria Township Road (11th St NW and 32nd Ave NW. 6200 feet of 11th St NW) within and near Audubon National Wildlife Refuge, in McLean County, North Dakota.

The project has four primary components:

1. The roadway will receive 4 inches of gravel resurfacing:
 - 1300 feet of 32nd Ave NW will receive 6 inches of gravel resurfacing;
 - 1500 feet of 11th St NW at a “prairie pothole” pond will be raised 2 feet and receive 9 inches of gravel to mitigate roadway damage due to water inundation.
2. Riprap will be placed on the roadway embankment at the pond to alleviate erosion.
3. 11th St NW will also be widened to 24 feet to facilitate safer two-way operation.
4. 32nd Ave NW will be widened to 18 feet to improve operation.

The proposed improvements will improve access and safety within the Audubon National Wildlife Refuge and will not adversely affect the important attributes, features or functions of the Refuge. The gravel resurfacing will improve the existing soft shoulders and allow the road to operate as two lanes, improving safety for vehicles passing each other. The road widening and elevation increase will improve safety and reduce long-term maintenance requirements yet result in extensions of side slopes into wetlands and Waters of the U.S. The final design process, environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and associated environmental compliance processes for the proposed improvements are underway. A Categorical Exclusion is being prepared to address NEPA requirements. The design, NEPA, and environmental clearance processes are scheduled for completion in July of 2014. Construction is expected to begin as soon as August 1, 2014.

FHWA encourages all interested persons to provide input. Comments may be sent to: Jeffrey Berna, Environmental Program Specialist, FHWA-CFLHD, 12300 West Dakota Avenue, Suite 330, Lakewood, CO 80228-2683, Jeffrey.Berna@dot.gov, 720-963-3641. Comments received by June 10, 2014 are considered to be within the official public comment period. If you would like more information, or if you have any questions, please contact Mr. Berna.